

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **STATE LIBRARY ANNOUNCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE FORMATION**

(HELENA)---The Montana State Library announced today the formation of its Professional Education and Employment for Librarians (PEEL) Advisory Committee. Members will guide the administration of a recently received federal grant.

Committee members include:

- Dale Alger, public libraries representative, Roundup
- Carolyn Bitz, Montana State Library Commissioner, Box Elder
- Mary Bushing, library educator, Bozeman
- John Finn, Montana Library Association President, Great Falls
- Michael Hall, Office of Public Instruction, Helena
- John Meckler, school libraries representative, Plains
- Anita Scheetz, tribal college libraries representative, Poplar
- Mike Schulz, academic libraries representative, Dillon
- Ellen Swaney, Director of the American Indian/Minority Achievement Office of the Commission of Higher Education, Helena
- Karen Strege, Montana State Librarian, ex-officio member, Helena

Last month, the State Library was selected for a \$206,167 award from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services. The three-year grant will fund a statewide promotion/recruitment campaign designed to attract Montana residents to the library profession, with an emphasis on recruiting more Native American librarians.

Six Montana residents will receive scholarships to attend graduate library school and will be required to work in a Montana public, school, or tribal library for a minimum of two years following the program. Stipends will also be awarded to help libraries bring these new graduates into their communities. Scholarship applicants will be selected in the spring of 2004; those selected will begin school in the fall of 2004.

The Committee's first meeting is set for December 2 at the State Library in Helena.

For more information about Montana's grant, contact Sue Jackson, Library Development Consultant at the Montana State Library at (406) 444-5350 or at [sujackson@state.mt.us](mailto:sujackson@state.mt.us).

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